

PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

This section contains the definitions for terms used in the Nat5 Protocol documents. Other applicable definitions may also be found in ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3 and ISO 14065.

ADDITIONALITY

Project-based emission reductions and removals exceed what would have occurred if the project had not been implemented or would have occurred otherwise.

BASE YEAR

Specific, historical period identified for the purpose of comparing GHG emissions or GHG removals or other GHG-related information over time.

BIODIVERSITY BASELINE SCENARIO

Biodiversity values occurring at a site, their current condition, and trends before a project starts.

CARBON BASELINE SCENARIO

The baseline scenario of the current rate of sequestration; and the current amount of carbon that is currently stored in the carbon sink.

CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT (CO₂E)

Unit for comparing the radiative forcing of a GHG to that of carbon dioxide.

CARBON SINK

A reservoir (natural or human, in soil, ocean, and plants) where a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored. Note that UNFCCC Article 1.8 refers to a sink as any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere (IPCC, 2022).

CRITERIA

Policy, procedure or requirement used as a reference against which the GHG statement (3.4.3) is compared.

GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL (GWP)

Index, based on radiative properties of GHGs, measuring the radiative forcing following a pulse emission of a unit mass of a given GHG in the present-day atmosphere integrated over a chosen time horizon, relative to that of carbon dioxide (CO₂). A list of GHGs with their recognized GWPs is provided in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report¹.

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)

Gaseous constituent of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorbs and emits radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds. GHGs include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).

GHG BASELINE

Quantitative reference(s) of GHG emissions and/or *GHG removals* that would have occurred in the absence of a *GHG project* and provides the *baseline scenario* for comparison with project GHG emissions and/or *GHG removals*.

GHG EMISSION REDUCTION

Quantified decrease in GHG emissions between a baseline scenario and the GHG project.

GHG PROGRAM

Voluntary or mandatory international, national or subnational system or scheme that registers, accounts or manages *GHG emissions*, *GHG removals*, *GHG emission reductions* or *GHG removal enhancements* outside the organization or *GHG project*.

GHG PROJECT

Activity or activities that alter the conditions of a GHG baseline and which cause *GHG emission reductions* or *GHG removal enhancements*.

GHG PROJECT PROPONENT

Individual or organization that has overall control and responsibility for a *GHG project*. The term "project proponent" is also used synonymously in the text.

GHG REMOVAL

Withdrawal of a GHG from the atmosphere by *GHG sinks*.

GHG REMOVAL ENHANCEMENT

Quantified increase in GHG removals between a baseline scenario and the GHG project.

GHG STATEMENT

Factual and objective declaration that provides the subject matter for the verification or validation. The GHG statement could be presented at a point in time or could cover a period of time. The GHG statement provided by the responsible party should be clearly identifiable, capable of consistent evaluation or measurement against suitable criteria by a verifier or validator.

INTERESTED PARTY

Person or organization that can affect, be affected by, or perceive itself to be affected by a decision or activity.

MONITORING

Continuous or periodic collection of *GHG emissions*, *GHG removals* or other GHG-related data.

RESILIENCE

The capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation.

SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION (SCS)

Land management changes which increase the soil organic carbon content, resulting in a net removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

SOIL MOISTURE

Water stored in the soil in liquid or frozen form. Rootzone soil moisture is of most relevance for plant activity.

UNCERTAINTY

Parameter associated with the result of quantification that characterizes the dispersion of the values that could be reasonably attributed to the quantified amount. Uncertainty information typically specifies quantitative estimates of the likely dispersion of values and a qualitative description of the likely causes of the dispersion.

VALIDATION

Process for evaluating the reasonableness of the assumptions, limitations and methods that support a statement about the outcome of future activities.

VERIFICATION

Process for evaluating a statement of historical data and information to determine if the statement is materially correct and conforms to criteria.

VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODIES (VVBS)

Assess the compliance of projects with the requirements of ASES, namely ISO 14064-2. VVBs are qualified, independent third parties that ASES approves to conduct validation and verification based on their accreditation.